

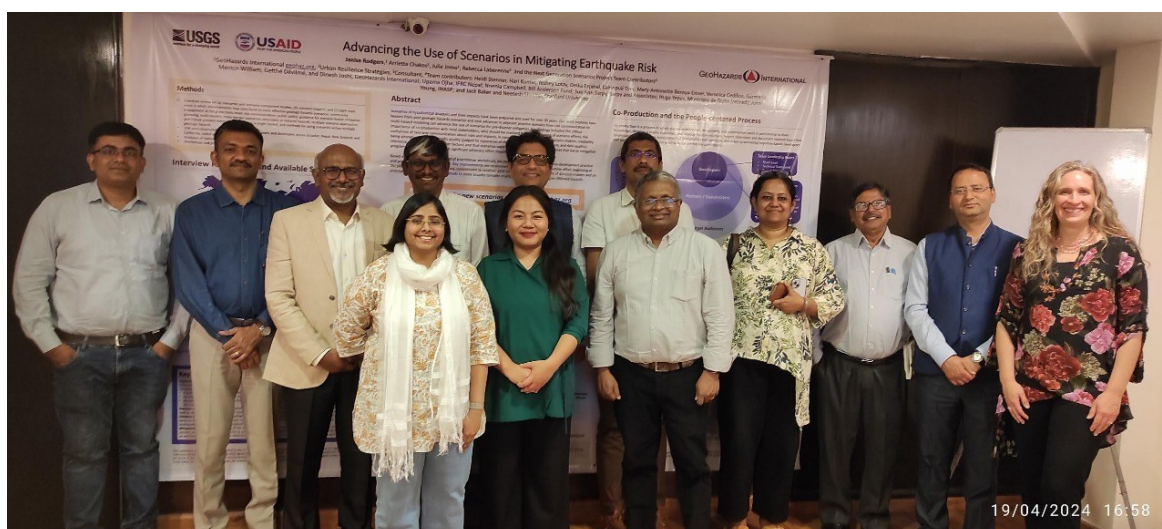


Annual Report 2024-25

In 2024-25, GeoHazards Society completed 17 years of service since its inception in 2008. The organisation continues to strive towards disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The projects implemented this year give thrust to inclusiveness, resilience for all, and dedicated support to institutions catering to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Hospital and School safety initiatives were also undertaken in many states. Partnering with International agencies like the GIZ and National Agencies like NIDM, NDMA, SDMAs, and private institutions like the Mariwala Health Initiative has helped GHS serve a wide range of vulnerable individuals and stakeholders to understand disaster and climate risks and formulate suitable interventions for mitigation and risk reduction.

Consultation Workshop on Disaster Scenarios for Risk Mitigation (April 2024)

GHS in partnership with GeoHazards International, organized a workshop on Disaster Scenarios for Risk Mitigation in April 2024. The participants included key representatives from various SDMAs and international agencies including WHO, GIZ, and The World Bank. The workshop discussed the importance of developing scenarios for disaster risk reduction to identify vulnerabilities and potential impacts, enabling proactive measures to strengthen resilience and reduce the severity of future disasters.





Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change In Development Plans, NIDM-GIZ-GHS project in Coimbatore (May 2024- Aug 2024)

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ), has initiated a critical consultancy project titled "Policy Support for Mainstreaming DRR and CCA Measures into Development Plans." GHS was engaged for this project by NIDM in May 2024. This project aimed to strengthen urban resilience to climate-induced hazards by integrating inclusive DRR and CCA strategies into the urban planning processes of partner cities, including Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. The methodology adopted for this project includes a comprehensive desk review by subject experts, extensive stakeholder consultations, and a capacity-building training workshop for the state and city-level officials at Coimbatore. Guidelines for mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development project and a training module were also developed under the project. The report and recommendations were presented at a national-level workshop at NIDM in Nov 2024.



Inclusive Disaster Preparedness- Safety for All in Assam, Nagaland, New Delhi and Kerala (Sep 2023 – Dec 2024)

GHS collaborated with the Mariwala Health Initiative to create safer school environments for children with special needs across Assam, Nagaland, New Delhi, and Kerala. As part of this project, several institutions were chosen for interventions, including The Angel Home, Prodigal Home, and Deaf Biblical Ministry in Nagaland; Shishu Sarothi in Guwahati, Assam; Action for Autism and Blind Relief Association School in New Delhi; and Assisi School for Mentally Challenged and Sredha School in Kerala.

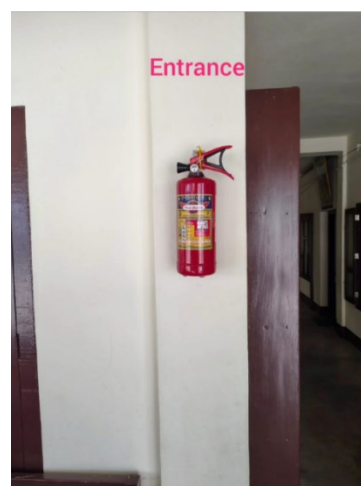
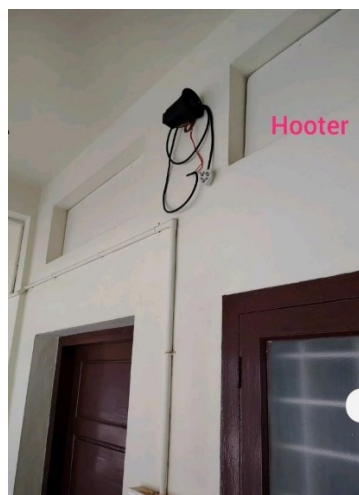


School authorities were made aware of the critical need for disaster safety measures for their students and were guided on implementing both structural and non-structural improvements to enhance school safety. Key activities included training caregivers and parents on basic disaster preparedness, establishing School Safety Committees and response teams, and providing training in first aid and firefighting. GHS also assisted schools in developing floor plans and marking safe evacuation routes for emergencies. Teachers and parents actively participated in the process, with a strong emphasis on family preparedness. Activities carried out in various states are listed below.

Activities in Kerala

Sensitisation programme, First-aid training, and Firefighting training were conducted for teachers and caregivers in Assisi Centre for Intellectually Challenged and Sredha Computer and Vocational Training Centre for the Intellectually Challenged. The School Safety Committees discussed evacuation planning with school maps and conducted mock drills involving all students and staff with the guidance of GHS team.

Safety audits were conducted and action taken for Infrastructure Improvements include construction of additional staircase in Sredha and installation of Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and improved alarm systems in both schools.



Activities in Nagaland

A series of disaster preparedness programs were conducted during 2024-25 in the Angel Home, Prodigal Home, and Deaf Biblical Ministry in Nagaland as part of the MHI sponsored Resilience for All project. The School safety committees planned the evacuation routes and practiced drills. All staff

and students together executed the preparedness drill in October 2024. Fire safety Equipment were installed in these schools as part of the project.



Activities in Assam

At Shishu Sarothi School in Assam, a Sensitization Programme was conducted for the parents and caregivers, followed by organising the Disaster Preparedness Drill involving the entire students and staff of the school in October 2024. Emergency alarms, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were also provided to the school under the Resilience for All project to enhance disaster preparedness.





Activities in Delhi

Action for Autism (AFA) and Blind Relief Association schools participated actively in the Resilience for All Project during 2024-25. Sensitisation programme for the staff and caregivers and School safety drills were conducted in both institutions after multiple visits and practice sessions. Fire safety training, hand-on practice of using a fire extinguishers were also provided to the staff by GHS team.



Commemorating the IDDRR day (Oct 2024)

The GHS team voluntarily undertook school safety and sensitization programs to remind the importance of disaster awareness and mitigation and to increase the capacities of the school authorities to respond better during any disaster. Activities were conducted by the team members in Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, New Delhi, and Kerala on the day.





Landslide and Earthquake Preparedness Training at AFD, Delhi (Nov 2024)

A Basic Disaster Awareness training was imparted to the staff of AFD at their Delhi Office in Nov 2024. As the staff of the organization travel to Himalayan states, it is essential to sensitize them on earthquake and landslide risks and survival skills.



Resilience for All - A workshop on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Kerala (Feb 2025)

GHS partnering with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority organized "Resilience for All: A Workshop on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR)" aiming to bridge the gap between disaster management and inclusivity, ensuring that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are not just recipients of aid but active participants in building resilience. Bringing together experts, policymakers, and grassroots organizations, the workshop sought to create a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and policy advocacy. Field experience sharing of working with institutions for persons with disabilities in Assam, Nagaland, Delhi, and Kerala the workshop emphasized the need for inclusive strategies that prioritize accessibility, preparedness, and empowerment.





Workshop on Safe Schools, Resilience Communities: Addressing School Safety Challenges, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (Feb 2025)

The "Safe Schools, Resilient Communities" workshop aimed to address the challenges schools face in disaster preparedness and response while highlighting best practices and solutions. The event brought together educators, students, disaster management professionals, and policymakers to foster dialogue, share knowledge, and create a roadmap for enhancing school safety initiatives across Kerala. Discussions focused on the vulnerabilities of schools, the need for structured safety plans, and the role of students in disaster preparedness. The workshop also emphasized the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration to ensure that school safety remains a priority at all levels of governance and implementation.



Training on Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Development, Bilaspur, HP (Mar 2025)

GHS team invited by the District Disaster Management Authority, Bilaspur, imparted a three-day training program for the senior administrative staff and decision makers of all the health facilities across Bilaspur District, HP. The trainees were taken through the Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and planning process through interactive lectures and group exercises.





The informative sessions helped the participants to understand that hospitals need to be safe and functional at all times, especially in the event of any disaster.